Gravity & Other Myths: Backbone

OCT 25 – 26

Lachlan Binns, Jascha Boyce, Martin Schreiber, Jacob Randell, Joanne Curry, Lachlan Harper, Mieke Lizotte, Jackson Manson, Lewis Rankin, Lewie West
ACROBATS
Elliot Zoerner and Shenton Gregory
MUSICIANS/COMPOSERS
Darcy Grant
DIRECTOR
Geoff Cobham
STAGE & LIGHTING DESIGNER
Craig Harrison
PRODUCER
Triton Tunis-Mitchell
CREATIVE ASSOCIATE
Tour by Aurora Nova and
Boat Rocker Entertainment

Backbone runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.

Come out to The Broad Stage plaza after the show on Oct. 26 for POP: Part performance, part party, all play. Presented in partnership with The Plaza at Santa Monica
GRAVITY & OTHER MYTHS is a multi-award winning and well-respected Australian acrobatics ensemble. The company creates engaging works of acrobatic art for touring, festivals and corporate clients. Formed in 2009 in Adelaide, South Australia, the ensemble creates and directs their own work with an emphasis on an honest approach to performance. Moving away from traditional circus and theatre models the company aims for a fusion of simple, effective acrobatic physical theatre.

Backbone examines the various perceptions of what strength is, where it comes from and how it is measured. This frenetic celebration of human interconnectedness will test the limits of strength: physical, emotional, individual and collective.

It is set in the here and now. We won’t be transporting you to Verona. We are
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In a theater. In front of you.

ACROBATS

At an early age LACHLAN BINNS was enthralled and inspired by a local circus show. In the following years he was drawn into the world of circus and physical performance. Specializing in group acrobatics, Lachy is not quite big enough to be called a base yet not light enough to be called a flyer. He has embraced what he maintains is the vital role of “middle.” His passion for creativity is a driving force for both his work as a trainer for young people and as a performer and founding member of Gravity & Other Myths.

JASCHA BOYCE has been a performer almost all of her life. Beginning as soon as she could walk with dance performances in the lounge room, she discovered circus at age 4 and it wasn’t long before she spent all of her time upside down and in the air. After years spent training, teaching and performing, Jascha focuses her creative passion through Gravity & Other Myths. She is a flyer in a majority of the group acrobatics as well as specializing in hula hoop and adagio.

JOANNE CURRY always knew she wanted to be the “girl who gets thrown around” in the circus. After 7 years of competing nationally in Sports Acrobatics she tumbled into completing certificate 3 and 4 in Circus Arts at NICA (National Institute of Circus Arts). Joanne gained confidence and drive through travel, using the world to find and define her style within the performing arts. She specializes in partner acrobatics and hand balancing.

LACHLAN HARPER was age 4 when his parents put him into gymnastics to try and tire him out. After 11 years of training he sought a new way to explore his body’s acrobatic capabilities, his first taste of circus was when a friend introduced him to pitching. He became obsessed, having a career of being thrown around, flipping and having fun was the dream. He pursued his career as a circus artist by attending the National Institute of Circus Arts where he specialized in handstands, acrobatics and banquine.

MIEKE LIZOTTE specialises in high-energy hula hoops, combined with a knack for being thrown around, and an ability to turn herself inside out and upside down. She started her career at a young age in the small, yet talent-rich state of Tasmania, with a local youth circus: Slipstream Circus. After over six years performing and teaching circus across Australia, she moved on to train at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne and the Beijing International Acrobatics School, where she trained intensively in hula hoops, flexibility, hand-balancing and acrobatics. She has a genuine love for all things circus and her contagious smile will no doubt delight audiences everywhere.

MICHAEL MARTIN has performed both nationally and internationally with skills that include pitching, floor tumbling and group acrobatics. Martin hopes to continue creating work and inspiring audiences worldwide through the joy and spectacle of circus.

JACOB RANDELL has always been a jack of all trades when it comes to circus and sport; showing enthusiasm, energy and strong natural talent at all times. As one of the founding members
of GOM, he has been with the company since the start and aspires to continue to grow the company. Jacob specializes in hand to hand, floating between roles as both a base and flyer. He aspires to continue to pursue his adventurous side through circus training and touring balanced alongside academic studies.

LEWIS RANKIN has been very active since a young age with his involvement in sports and a love for the outdoors. He found contemporary dance later in life which he trained at Adelaide Centre for the Arts. Since graduating he has performed with Shaun Parker & Company, Leigh Warren & Dancers, Sandpit and numerous other independent companies. Circus and Acrobatics is a recent discovery and now he is passionate about combining and evolving these different art forms.

LEWIE WEST is an Australian acrobat through and through. He literally has circus in his bloodstream due to all the rosin, chalk and acrobat sweat he's accidentally ingested over the years. He started in Warehouse Youth Circus in Canberra before training at The National Institute of Circus Arts. After earning his Bachelor's degree Lewie performed, created and choreographed with Circa for 7 years, finding time to sneak off and earn a Gold medal in Paris at the Mondial du Cirque de Demain, or what his Mum calls “The Circus Olympics,” for his solo aerial straps act. In spite of this, Lewie considers himself to be mostly an ensemble acrobat and has admired GOMs work for years. He’s very happy to be in the mix and working with such a great crew.

MUSICIANS

SHENTON GREGORY (a.k.a. Shenzo Gregorio) had a violin passed down to him from his older sister when he was just 4 years of age. After 17 years of classical training, Shenton decided that real world experience was the way forward. He continued to develop his knowledge in many styles of music, notably his invention of playing the violin upside down caused quite a stir. He’s been a member of Sydney Rock string quartet “Fourplay” for 12 years and continues to be one of the highest in-demand musicians in Australia.

Since taking up the drums at age 11, ELLIOT ZOERNER has played with a wide variety of musical groups in Australia. While studying classical percussion and engineering at Adelaide University, the circus entered his life, pulled him away from his studies and took him on tour. He now works as a live musician and composer for GOM, collaborating with the acrobats to create the soundtracks for their shows. While on tour, he has continued to write music and release it under the name Sirins.

DIRECTOR

DARCY GRANT is a classically trained acrobat, award-winning fine art photographer, physical theatre director and founding member of Circa, revered as one of the world’s most adventurous, genre-defying circuses. He has trained, taught and toured work on the cutting edge of New Circus to some of the world’s most prestigious venues. Where theatre, dance, circus and visual art meet is where Darcy likes to practice. His visual aesthetic is foundation and scaffold to his show making. In 2017 Darcy was commissioned by Adelaide International Arts Festival to direct Backbone by Gravity and Other Myths. The show premiered to 5-star reviews and standing ovations, also attracting three Helpmann Award nominations including Best Choreography and Best New Australian Work. Also a brilliant photographer, Darcy regularly shoots live performance for companies such as Opera Australia and The Farm. Darcy has had solo photographic exhibitions in Brisbane, Melbourne and Berlin.

DESIGNER

GEOFF COBHAM has worked as an Event Producer, Production Manager, Lighting Designer, Set Designer, Public Artist and Venue Designer. His work has ranged from many smaller innovative productions at the Everyday Arts Festival, Queens Theatre, Belvoir St, Red Shed and non-theatre venues (tents, warehouses, etc.) to large scale theatre/dance productions, festivals, art exhibitions, events, museums and venue creation. His love of light and dance has led him to work with many of Australia’s top choreographers and allowed him to explore the endless combinations of color, angle, intensity and movement of light. With his company Bluebottle he has designed many lighting installations and lit public artworks, buildings, landscapes and freeways. He received a Churchill Fellowship in 2010 to study Outdoor Theatre in Europe. Geoff has been working on festivals since the late 80s when he began working for Sydney Festival. He subsequently went on to become an integral part of the senior management team of The Sydney Festival, The Adelaide Festival and WomAdelaide Festival. Geoff was the resident designer for State Theatre Company of South Australia before just recently being appointed as Artistic Director for Patch Theatre Company. His awards include; Ruby Award for Sustained Contribution, Green Room Award Best Lighting Design for Night Letters, Sydney Theatre Award Best Lighting Design for Never Did Me Any Harm.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TECHNICIANS

An industry professional once described MAX MACKENZIE as “Max Mackenzie, high places and small places.” So Max fits in perfectly operating the lighting and touring with a group like GOM. Max Mackenzie studied a Bachelor of Arts specializing in Lighting for Performance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. He loves lighting design and operation especially in circus and theatre but has also design operated for concerts, festivals and dance performances. Over the past two years Max has been working in concert venues and has design and operated lighting for The Strangers, Marshmallow, 2unlimited and Spor. However he’s excited to get back with the circus, lighting theaters and tents all around the world.

MARKO RESPONDECK studied theatre production at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia specialising in lighting design. Since graduating in 2002 he has worked with a large number of major professional Australian arts companies including Melbourne Workers Theatre, Malthouse Theatre, Stalker Theatre Company, Legs on the Wall, National institute of Circus Arts, Circus OZ, Chunky Move, Australian Dance Theatre, Kage Physical Theatre, The Burlesque Hour, Candy Butchers and Soirée. In addition to doing lighting design and operation with these arts companies, Marko has worked in the technical planning teams of a number of prestigious international arts festivals and commercial events including Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Adelaide Festival, New Zealand International Arts Festival, Darwin Arts Festival, Perth International Arts Festival, Beijing Motor Show and Volvo Ocean Race. Since June 2018 Marko has been touring internationally with Backbone by Gravity & Other Myths as technical director and lighting specialist for the show.

CHRISTOPHER SANDERS is a freelance Lighting Designer and Technical Manager who has worked in the Arts industry since 1999. He graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne in 2003 where he completed a Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Production) specialising in Lighting Design. Chris began his career in Canberra where he co-founded the award winning theatre company The Nineteenth Hole. Since then he has enjoyed the diversity of the live performance scene, working with many arts festivals around the world including Edinburgh International Festival, New Zealand Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival and Festspillene I Bergen as well as touring extensively with Norway’s premier contemporary dance company, Carte Blanche. Chris first worked with Gravity and other Myths at the beginning of 2017 on the premier of their production of Backbone in the Adelaide International Arts Festival and has been touring extensively on this production since then, in Germany, Czech Republic and Netherlands. Chris has had the opportunity to design with such directors as Ariette Taylor, Kate Cherry as well as Brian Lipson.